AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A position locating instrument (10) for accurately determining the location of a cutting plane, the instrument comprising a base (11) connected to means (12) capable of determining the position of the instrument, a plate (24) moving along with the base for insertion into an opening (36) of a bone cutting guide (37), and resilient means for compensating for the play between the plate and the guide to prevent a movement of the instrument when it is inserted in the opening, the resilient means extending outwardly along only one face of the plate (24) to cause an opposite planar face of the base (11) to lie flush against a complementary planar surface (38) that defines the opening (36).

12. (Original) The instrument of claim 11, in which the resilient play compensation means comprise at least one flexible blade (28A, 28B, 28C, 28D) provided to bear against a surface (39) of the opening (36).

13. (Original) The instrument of claim 11, in which the resilient play compensation means comprise at least three flexible blades (28A, 28B, 28C, 28D) provided to bear against a surface (39) of the opening (36).

14. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim 13, wherein the opposite planar face of the base (11) ~~in which the plate (24)~~ comprises a surface (25) provided to be maintained bearing against the ~~a~~ complementary surface (38) of the opening (36) under the action of the flexible blades (28A, 28B, 28C, 28D).

15. (Original) The instrument of claim 13, in which each flexible blade (28A, 28B, 28C, 28D) is bent, and is connected to the plate (24) at one end, the opposite end of the blade being provided to come into contact with the surface (39) of the opening (36).

16. (Original) The instrument of claim 15, in which the end of each flexible blade (28A, 28B, 28C, 28D) provided to come into contact with a surface (39) of the opening (36) is tapered.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The instrument of claim 13, in which the plate is formed of a resilient material, the flexible blades (28A, 28B, 28C, 28D) being formed in the plate (24).

19. (Original) The instrument of claim 13, in which the flexible blades (28A, 28B, 28C, 28D) are parallel.

20. (Original) The instrument of claim 11, in which the means capable of determining the position of the instrument comprise a rigid body (12) solidly connected to the base (11) on which are arranged back-reflective disks (16).

21. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim 11, in which the locating instrument

comprises markers (33), each marker being capable of cooperating with means for locating the position of said marker.

22. (New) A system for accurately determining a location of a cutting plane to permit a bone cutting operation to be performed comprising:

a bone-cutting guide (37) having an opening (36) in which a cutting blade is inserted, the opening (36) having a first surface (39) and an opposing second surface (38); and

a position locating instrument (10) for accurately determining the location of the cutting plane, the instrument comprising:

a base (11) connected to means (12) capable of determining the position of the instrument,

a plate (24) moving along with the base for insertion into the opening (36) of the bone cutting guide (37), the plate (24) having a first face and an opposing second face, and

resilient means for compensating for the play between the plate and the guide to prevent a movement of the instrument when it is inserted in the opening (36) of the bone cutting guide (37), the resilient means comprising a plurality of flexible blades extending outwardly along only the first face of the plate and bearing against the first surface (39) of the opening (36) to thereby accurately locate the cutting plane by maintaining the second face of the plate (24) in contact against the second surface (38) of the opening (36), wherein the second face is in contact against the second surface at a location of the plate where all of the blades are formed and are

bearing against the opposite first surface (39).